www.kstatecollegian.com | Friday, Sept. 10, 2010 |

K-State vs. Missouri State

ROUND TWO



Running back **Daniel Thomas** prepares for contact with a defender in last week's win against UCLA. Thomas and the Wildcats will be back in action tomorrow when they welcome Missouri State to Bill Snyder Family Stadium.

K-State prepares for game with Missouri State

Ashley Dunkak sports editor

After jump starting its season with a victory over UCLA, the Wildcats face the Missouri State Bears tomorrow at 6:10 p.m. While non-conference games are often considered automatic wins, K-State is not looking past its low-

er-division opponent. Last weekend, the University of Kansas offered an example of what can occur when a team underestimates its opponent and lets its guard down. North Dakota State defeated KU 6-3.

"Of course I wanted to laugh a little bit," said senior offensive lineman Wade Weibert. "I'm very passionate about my dislike for KU, so I was very happy about it, but [Monday] night I started thinking about it a little more because with a team like Missouri State, they're a lower-ranked opponent. I think it'd be really easy for us to underestimate them, and I think that would be a very unfor-

tunate thing for us to do."

K-State had a situation similar to KU's when it lost to the University of Louisiana-Lafayette in

"About this time last year, that was us," Weibert said. "We know

Over the last four seasons, there has

Mastrud and his transition into the

Q: After watching film of last week, what's your opinion of where the team is at after the

A: Definitely some room for improve-

ment. Overall, our effort was there.

We came out and hit some people,

which is always good. We've got some

little things to work on with execution here and there, but overall, I think the

coaches were pleased with our perfor-

mance. We laid a good foundation for us to grow for the rest of the season.

Q: Are there any specific areas where you think the offense needs to improve?

A: Well, we obviously ran the ball pretty well. But, as tight ends, we can

hold our blocks a little longer. There

was a few times where [Akeem] Ayers

was coming off blocks a little late and

making tackles. We need to hang on

a little bit longer, finish blocks. Just

overall execution of the passing game

and running game.

Justin Nutter

starting role.

first game?

gameday editor

the sting of losing to an opponent that everyone feels like you should

The Wildcats compete at the Football Bowl Subdivision level (FBS). The Bears compete at the Football Championship Subdi-

Missouri State faced K-State at Bill Snyder Family Stadium in 2007 and lost 61-10. Former K-State wide receiver and current NFL player Jordy Nelson caught

15 receptions for 209 yards. Besides that lone lopsided

similar to UCLA's, Snyder said. The K-State coach seemed most impressed with Missouri State's senior quarterback Cody Kirby.

"Their quarterback is a competitive young guy, really throws a nice ball," Snyder said. "He's a few yards away from being the leading passer in the history of Missouri State football and has more touchdown passes than anybody ever has down there. I like the way he

On the defensive side, the Bears run the 3-4, a scheme the Wildcats

do not usually face. "It's been a while since we really practiced against [the 3-4 defense], took some serious reps, said junior offensive lineman Zach Hanson. "We just need to get some reps on it, get our calls down, different looks and stuff like that."

K-State rushed for 313 yards and threw for 64 in the last game. While the lack of balance turned out all right against UCLA, the players know the team has to be able to throw the ball.

Eventually, teams will try to stop senior running backs Daniel Thomas and William Powell.

"They can load the box up, and we need to be able to pass the ball when that happens," senior offensive lineman Zach Kendall said.

BY THE NUMBERS

Numbers to consider when K-State takes on Missouri State tomorrow

-Returning starters for the Bears

Eight come back on offense, and nine come back on defense. This is an experienced team. As K-State senior offensive linemen Wade Weibert put it: "It's a college opponent. These are college kids just like us. They put on their equipment just like us."

200

-Games as a head coach for Terry Allen after Saturday

This weekend's contest marks a milestone in the career of the Missouri State head coach. Interestingly enough, that job was once held by K-State's current co-offensive coordinator Del Miller.

22,938-Enrollment of Missouri State

As the second-largest institution of higher education in Missouri, it is probably larger than you thought it was. On a side note: in case you are not already rooting against the Bears, Kansas City Royals owner David Glass is an alumnus.

23,681

There are only about 500 more Wildcats than Bears, but the K-State football team competes in the Football Bowl Subdivision while the Missouri State football team competes in the Football Championship Subdivision.

-Consecutive games started by Missouri State's Cody Kirby

The senior quarterback from Rogers, Ark., threw for 199 yards against Eastern Kentucky last week to boost his career passing yardage to 6,075 yards. This is the player K-State head coach Bill Snyder spoke of so highly.

-Consecutive 100-yard rushing games by Chris Douglas

The junior tailback ran for more than the length of the field in both the last game of the 2009 season and the first game of this 2010

300

-Average weight of Missouri State's five starting offensive linemen

The average height is 6-feet-4-inches, and the group has combined to start 72 games. Senior offensive tackle David Arkin has started 32 himself.

1-23

-Record of Missouri State against

In the past, the Bears have not fared well against teams of K-State's caliber. However, last year's team went 6-5 and 4-4 in the Missouri Valley Football Conference. That is the best the Bears have done in their league since 1993.

546

-Yards of offense K-State amassed the last time it played Missouri State

Though the Bears have consistently improved under head coach Terry Allen, who is in his fifth season at Missouri State, this is truly a game K-State has no excuse to lose. Granted, Jordy Nelson graced everyone with his presence in the 2007 meeting of these teams, but this time should not be any different.

13

-Senior running back Daniel Thomas' rank on K-State's career rushing chart

After his season opening performance against UCLA, Thomas currently has 1,499 rushing yards during his time at K-State. He needs just 11 yards to move into 12th place.

-Compiled by Ashley Dunkak

K-STATE VS. MISSOURI STATE

When: Tomorrow, 6:10 p.m. Where: Snyder Family Stadium **Television: None** Radio: K-State Sports Network Series: K-State leads 1-0

Sophomore tight end adjusts to new starting role

vision level (FCS). In layman's terms, the contest will be one between a Division-I team and a Division-II team. According to this week's edition of the Missouri State game notes, the NCAA allows 85 scholarships for FBS

teams and 63 for FCS teams.

State from 1995-1998.

match-up, the teams have another bit of shared history; Wildcats cooffensive coordinator Del Miller was the head coach at Missouri

Snyder said the Bears are a fairly good schematic football team. Their pistol-type offense is



Q: What has your relation-ship been like with fellow tight end Andre McDonald?

been no question as to who K-State's starting tight end would be. That title A: As a sophomore and freshman, we're both still young and learning. Coach [Ricky] Rahne is doing a good job of coaching us up. We're both good friends. We hang out outside of went to Jeron Mastrud. But, with the four-year starter now gone, the job has been given to sophomore Travis Tannahill. Tannahill caught just one pass practice and whatnot, so it's a good relationship there. It's competitive. in the Wildcats' season opener, but he made a big play late in the game, re-covering an on-side kick attempt to We all want it to be. We want to work harder and get a little bit more motivated, but it's a good relationship. preserve the lead. The product of Olathe East High School recently discussed a variety of

Q: Would you personally prefer to do more run blocking or pass blocking in a topics, including what he learned from

> A: Personally, as long as we win, I'm good. If we threw the ball 71 times a game and ran the ball zero and we won, I'm happy. If we ran the ball 71 times and threw zero, I'm happy. A win is a win and we'll take it any way we can get it.

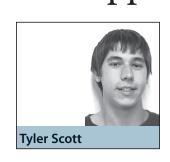
> Q: Can you talk about making a play at the end of the game by recovering the on-side kick?

A: I got some text messages after the game for that one. The coaches put us in a position to make a play and it was within my three-yard radius or whatever, so I went up and made a play. Coach [Snyder] is always talking about visualizing big plays, but that wasn't what I was visualizing the night before. Didn't think that was going to happen. If I didn't do it, I think Brodrick [Smith] was right behind me. I think he would have made it, too. Either way, we sealed the game.

See TANNAHILL, Page 4

PAGE 2: MATCHUP AND COLUMN | PAGE 3: SCOUTING REPORT | PAGE 4: HANSON FEATURE

K-State should pick up easy win against FCS opponent



K-State may have pulled off a bigger win than expected, but there are still a few kinks to figure out to complete the team.

Carson Coffman did show efficiency through the air, completing 11 of 16 passes, but only threw for 66 yards. His completion stats are already better than last year's when he finished the season completing 14 of 27 passes.

Now, for the bad news. He was sacked five times and also fumbled a snap that led to an easy, walk-in touchdown by UCLA sophomore quarterback Kevin Prince. Watching the game from the stands, I could see there were many opportunities where he could have easily thrown the ball away, but instead decided to run in circles and take a hit to the ground instead.

For now, the job remains with Coffman because he helped them to a victory alongside Thomas. Hopefully, this week we will see a little bit more of Colin Klein, and possibly Sammuel Lamur, under center. Thomas had a stellar game, rushing for 234 yards and two touchdowns and may have had the best overall performance of week one in college football. He is already ranked third on ESPN analyst Mel Kiper's draft board for running backs and this game improved talks in that conversation.

The defense had its good and bad moments. The worst showing came in the fourth quarter when UCLA cut the deficit to two points after going down the field in just two plays. Prince threw a touchdown pass over the shoulder of freshman receiver Ricky Marvray for 29 yards. The victory over the Bruins also helped K-State earn 12 votes in the AP Top-25 poll.

Tomorrow, the Wildcats host the Missouri State Bears out of the Missouri Valley Conference. The Bears beat Eastern Kentucky 31-9 last weekend, but they should have a tougher time against K-State. The last time these teams met was in Sept. 2007 when receiver Jordy Nelson set school records for receptions and yards in a game. He had 15 receptions for 209 yards, while running back James Johnson ran for 114 yards and three scores. The Wildcats overpowered the Bears from the opening kick in a 61-10 victory.

This season, Missouri State's targets are junior running back Chris Douglas and senior quarterback Cody Kirby. Douglas has 128 yards and a touchdown on the ground, while Kirby has thrown for 199 yards and a touchdown in the season opener. Douglas also attended Fort Scott Community College before don-

ning maroon and black. When looking at this match-up, I see this game having a similar turnout to last year's Tennessee Tech game. If Coffman can keep his head on straight and stay focused, the rest of the offense shouldn't have a problem. I think K-State will pull out a decisive vic-

Matching Up







OFFENSE





DEFENSE



K-State answered a lot of questions on offense last weekend, racking up 31 points in its season opening win against UCLA. Daniel Thomas was as good - or better - as advertised, as he ran wild for 234 yards and two touchdowns. Éven more impressive was Thomas' average of 8.4 yards per carry. Backup running back William Powell proved to also be more than capable in the backfield, carrying the ball six

times for 72 yards and a score.
The Wildcats' passing attack was nothing glamorous, but quarterback Carson Coffman was serviceable, completing 11 of 16 passing attempts, including a clutch five-yard scoring strike to Brodrick Smith in the game's final minutes. Coffman

than 20 minutes before the game,

booted four kickoffs for touch-

backs in his Wildcat debut, and

he connected on his only field

goal attempt - a 35-yarder in the

of practice, as he recorded six

punts for an average of 41.3 yards.

kicker Kai Forbath didn't allow

K-State's returners many oppor-

Punter Ryan Doerr got plenty

A strong showing by ÚCLA

will likely look to air it out more against the Bears in an attempt to gain some confidence in the

Missouri State also scored 31 in its season opener, but the Bears' offense was less one-dimensional than that of K-State. Quarterback Cody Kirby threw for 199 yards and a score, while running back Chris Douglas picked up 128 yards and a touchdown on the ground. Like K-State, Missouri State possess a very experienced offensive line, anchored by left tackle and preseason All-American, David Arkin.

Both offensive units proved to be capable of moving the ball and scoring points, but give the advantage to the Wildcats. Expect them to post big numbers again this week.

Statistics may favor the Bears in this department, but a look at both teams' first opponents is enough to give K-State the defensive edge. Missouri State allowed just three field goals last week, but the Eastern Kentucky team the Bears defeated doesn't match the caliber of the Wildcats' offense.

Missouri State had trouble defending Eastern Kentucky's passing attack, as the Bears allowed 315 yards through the air. That could mean wonders for Coffman, who will likely look to air it out more than a few times.

The Bears fared much better against the run, as Eastern Kentucy ran for just 35 yards. But that likely doesn't mean much to Thomas, who ran at will against UCLA. Look for both Thomas

and Powell to get plenty carries out of the backfield

The Wildcats' defense gave up 313 yards against the Bruins, but it came through when it mattered most. Big, lead-pre-serving plays were the theme of the day for the K-State defense, and the Wildcats will look for more of the same in week two.

Numerous big plays were made by Wildcat defensive end Brandon Harold, who returned to the starting lineup with a bang. The sophomore totaled five tackles — one for negative yardage — a sack and a forced

Missouri State has some weapons on offense, particularly at quarterback and offensive line, but the Bears should still be overpowered against K-State.



third quarter.

SPECIAL TEAMS



As big as Thomas' numbers tunities, but punt returner Trawere on the ground last week, one of K-State's biggest surprises maine Thompson did break free for 20 yards on the Bruins' first punt of the game. was placekicker Anthony Cantele. The sophomore from Wichi-Missouri State got just one ta, who was named the starter less

kick return chance against Eastern Kentucky, and it went for a three-yard loss. Kicker Jordan Chiles connected on a 43-yard attempt in the second quarter, but that was his only opportu-The jury is still out on both

special team units in week two, but given Cantele's success and K-State's stellar history in the return game, give the Wildcats the advantage.

PREDICTION

K-STATE 45 MISSOURI STATE 7

Don't expect to see many offensive fireworks from the Wildcats this weekend — head coach Bill Snyder likes to keep things simple if he can — but K-State should still rack up some solid stats against its Missouri Valley Conference opponent. The Bears have several playmakers on both sides of the ball, but they should still be no match for K-State's talent and athleticism.

Bottom line: this game

should serve as an opportunity for K-State to test all facets of its game against a weaker opponent. The Wildcats will likely want to work out as many kinks as they can, as they open the Big 12 Conference season next week.

No disrespect to Missouri State, but the Bears just don't have the firepower to match up with a Big 12 team. Expect a relatively uneventful showing by K-State, but also expect a comfortable, one-sided vic-

-Compiled by Justin Nutter

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Ashley Dunkak

sports editor

Sophomore offensive lineman Ethan Douglas, who sustained an injury in the early plays of the UCLA game, will not play against Missouri State. Douglas had been named the starting right tackle prior to the season.

On the play, Douglas went down and stayed there. Head coach Bill Snyder and others went onto the field, and two assistant coaches Douglas to the sideline. He didn't put any weight on his left leg.

Junior offen-sive lineman Zach Hanson went in for Douglas at right tackle. Hanson had prepared to go in because both Douglas and junior left tackle Manase Foketi were starting in their posi-

tions for the first time, and an

Starting lineman Douglas out with injury

DOUGLAS

helped athlete's first time playing big-time football is somewhat unpredictable, Hanson said. While he happy to get the op-portunity to play,

Hanson said it is hard because players are so close that whenever someone gets hurt or loses his position, the one filling the spot feels like he is taking it from a friend.

"He is a good guy," Hanson said of his teammate. "He's worked really hard - most improved guy on our team by far. He's 10 times the player he was when he first got here, even from the spring. Something clicked in camp and he just came together, so hopefully he'll come back pretty quick and we'll have another good tackle with us.'

Hanson is listed as the starting right tackle for tomorrow's









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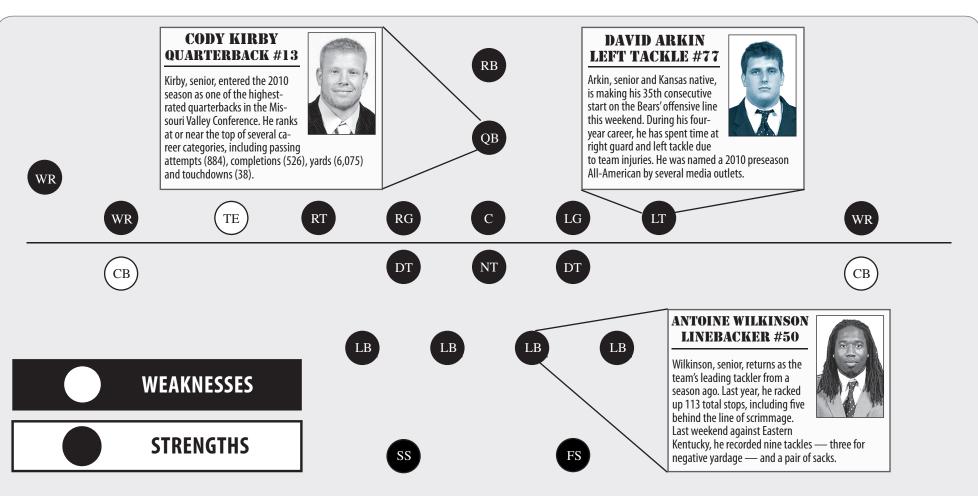


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Scouting Report





Missouri State Bears (1-0 overall, 0-0 Missouri Valley)

STRENGTHS

Quarterback: The Bears have no questions involving their starting signal caller, as they return senior Cody Kirby. Kirby already owns nearly every school passing record, and he's just one game into his senior campaign. He threw for 199 yards and a touchdown in Missouri State's season opener, and did so by hitting several targets. Kirby also proved he can score on the ground, as he crossed the goal line twice in short yardage situations.

Running back: The Bears featured a strong ground attack in their 31-9 win over Eastern Kentucky, as the team combined for 189 total rushing yards and three touchdowns. The charge was led by junior running back

Chris Douglas, who amassed 128 yards and a score. Douglas was the Bears' third-leading rusher in 2009, when he ran for 348 yards and four touchdowns. Look for the Wildcats' defense to buckle down against the run after allowing UCLA to rush for 193 yards

Wide receiver: Missouri State's No. 2 receiving threat from last season returns in junior Jermaine Saffold. Saffold caught 25 passes for 439 yards and three scores last season. He started this year off on the right foot, hauling in four balls for 67 yards and a score in week one. Look for quarterback Cody Kirby to have additional options at wideout, as Cadarrius Dotson and Trevor Wooden also combined for seven catches and 88 yards last week. K-State got some help from UCLA a week ago when the Bruins dropped several passes, but the Wildcats can't bank on offensive mishaps by opponents if they want to be

Offensive line: The Bears feature arguably the most experienced offensive front five K-State will face this season, as the starting unit includes a junior and four seniors. The line is anchored by preseason All-American left tackle David Arkin, who will make his 35th straight start.

Defensive line: Experience up front won't be an issue for the Missouri State defense, as all three starting lineman were solid contributors during the 2009

season. Nose tackle Mikel Ruder ranked seventh on the team in tackles last season with 46, including four behind the line of scrimmage. Ruder also ranked second on the team with three sacks. Exterior lineman Waylon Richardet finished just behind Ruder with 43 stops in 2009, and also recorded 2.5 sacks.

Linebacker: The Bears' linebacking corps features a preseason All-American in senior Antoine Wilkinson. Wilkinson returns as the team's leading tackler in 2009, when he totaled 113 stops. Five of those tackles went for negative yardage, while he also recorded an interception and recovered a fumble. Wilkinson is off to a fast start in 2010, as he recorded nine tackles — three for loss — and two sacks against Eastern Kentucky. UCLA linebacker Akeem Ayers gave the Wildcats fits last week, and the K-State offensive line will need to keep an eye on Wilkinson if they don't want more problems.

Safety: Experience is the theme of Missouri State's defense, and the safety position is no exception. Last season Skylar Smith and Derek Miller finished second and fourth on the team in total tackles, respectively. Smith also played a factor in the run defense, recording 3.5 tackles for loss. Miller proved to be a threat to opposing quarterbacks, as he led the team with four interceptions. Expect both safeties to play significant roles against the K-State offense this weekend.

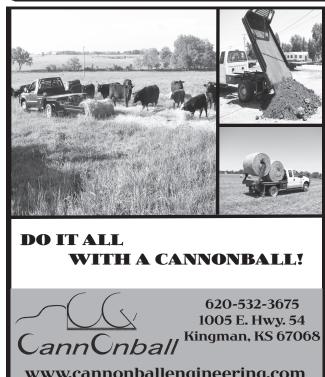
WEAKNESSES

Tight end: The jury is still out on the Bears' starting tight end, Matt Thayer. Thayer posted solid numbers last season at Iowa Western Community College, but to this point, he only has two catches for 29 yards in a Missouri State uniform.

Cornerback: This is the only defensive position in which the Bears don't possess a substantial amount of experience from last season. Junior Jimmie Strong recorded 42 total tackles in 2009, but his counterpart, redshirtfreshman Howard Scarborough, is making just his second collegiate start. K-State may elect to attack his youth and inexperi-

-Compiled by Justin Nutter







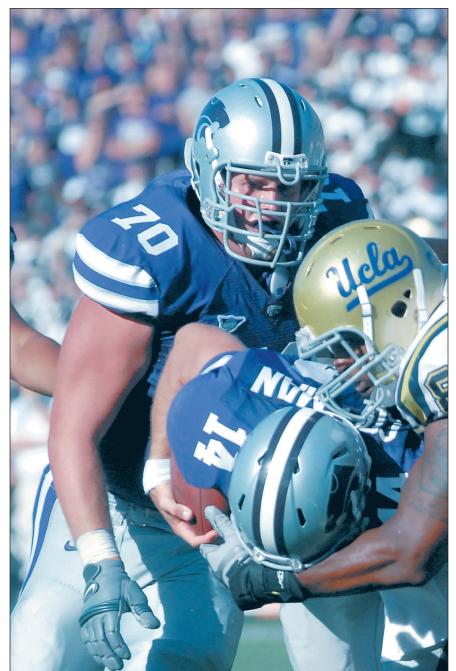
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BIG SHOES TO FILL



Nathaniel LaRue | Collegian

Zach Hanson (70) entered last week's contest early after teammate Ethan Douglas was injured. Hanson is listed as K-State's starting right tackle for this weekend's game.

THIS WEEKEND'S STARTING O-LINE

LT	L
Manase	Za
Foketi	Ken



59



Weibert 74



Kenneth Mayfield

RG

67

Hanson **70**

Zach

Hanson moves into starting role after teammate's injury

Ashley Dunkak

sports editor

Zach Hanson refers to himself as the "backup reserve guy."

Last Saturday against UCLA, Carson Coffman had snapped the ball only twice when Hanson went from the sidelines to the field, protecting Coffman from the offensive line position opposite the one he practices most.

"First I was wondering, 'Is Ethan all right? What happened? Is it serious or is it just a minor thing?" the junior lineman said. "Then I just had to get my mind

ready to go. I ran out there and just told them all, 'Hey, I'm ready to go,' and they all trusted me and we went down and scored on that drive, so it was a good feel-

ing."
Usually a left tackle, Hanson played right tackle during the game, and he did give up a sack. He a p o l o g i z e d to the senior quarterback, who under-stood Hanson had taken next to no reps at the position in practices.

Moving from left tackle to right tackle involves trying to

flip over all the plays, do them the right way and take the right footsteps, Hanson

"Instead of using your right foot on stuff you would use at the left tackle spot, you have to use your left foot," Hanson said. "Sometimes it gets a little hard. Every step is exactly the opposite."

On Tuesday, he looked forward to having a whole week to practice on the

As the catalysts of the offense, linemen tend to be close, and the Wildcats are no exception.

We have great chemistry," Hanson said. "We're all best friends. We all hang out all the time, everybody. That's one of the tough things about when a guy goes down, or a guy loses his position, or we have to

take his position from somebody else; it's

like taking it from your friend. But at the same time it helps because we all compete with each other every day. There's a good bunch of guys; we just have fun together."

Senior lineman Zach Kendall analyzed the line's performance against UCLA and ultimately concluded it has much to improve on.

"We rushed for 315 yards, which says a lot, but when you get into the film room, there's a different story there," Kendall said. "There's a lot of things we need to work on. Our passing game is not what we had hoped. We're a better team than that; we're a better passing offense than that."

An inside look at

Zach Hanson

DATE OF BIRTH: *FEB.* 13, 1988

HIGH SCHOOL: *LINDEN*

YEAR: JUNIOR

GAMES PLAYED: 13

GAMES STARTED: NONE

HEIGHT/WEIGHT: 6'8", 305 LBS.

HOMETOWN: SACRAMENTO, CALIF.

PREVIOUS SCHOOL: SACRAMENTO CC

POSITION: *OFFENSIVE LINEMAN*

Kendall said Coffman's efficiency was nice, but there was no significant yardage because the line let too much pressure get into his face. UCLA had six sacks and the whole team not just the line or Ćoffman bears the responsibility for allowing those to happen.

The efficiency of the run game far outweighed that of the pass game. K-State has multiple threats in the backfield, most notably senior running backs Daniel Thomas and William Powell.

"It makes our job easy," Kendall said. "It's nice to know that we have that capability in the backfield to know that [if] we do our job just well enough, they're going to make everything else happen. It's exciting for us."

In turn, Powell glowed when talking about the offensive line. With a big grin and an expression combining admiration, amusement and awe, he said, "Offensive line: amazing."

Still smiling, Powell described the linemen as funny, good guys of a tight-knit

group.
"Their performance on the field is amazing," Powell said. "Every day at practice they're probably the hardest-working group, fighting in the trenches, just every play, back to back, and they do the same in the game."

Your home for complete

TANNAHILL | Starting tight end leads by example on field

Continued from Page 1

Q: Given the recent injury of right tackle Ethan Douglas, will you and McDonald have to step it up when it comes to pass blocking?

73

A: Definitely. I could definitely see us checking into a little more max protection. That's the coaches' call, not mine. I just do as I'm told. But I've got no problem pass blocking. It's kind of fun getting one-on-one with a linebacker. In some protections, we've got double-teams with

me and our fullback, so those are fun too. I've got no problem standing in there and helping block.

Q: Being a sophomore, what did you learn from former tight end Jeron Mastrud while he was still

A: Last year, he was a great leader on our team. That's probably what I learned the most. Coming in from high school, you have no idea what college football is like, about the amount of time and effort you put in. [He was] definitely someone to teach me how to get through the day, how to lift, how to practice.

Q: Now that Mastrud is gone, how do you feel about stepping into that leadership role as starting tight end?

A: We're getting there. I'm still a pretty young guy, but the guys are maybe starting to look at me a little bit more — especially go out there and play hard and work hard in practice, everything will fall into place.

the incoming freshmen. You know, actions speak louder than words I think. If I just

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